# DRUGGED DRIVING VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

August 31 – September 3, 2020 Phoenix, Arizona



Monday, September 14, 2020

### The Standardized 12 Steps & DRE Equipment

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Distributed by:

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## The Standardized 12 Steps and DRE Equipment

#### The Three Determinations of a DRE

When conducting a DRE trial, it is important to remember that the DRE is not only looking for signs and symptoms of drug impairment. The DRE process is a three step process.

**Step one:** the DRE must determine whether the suspect is impaired.

**Step two:** if the DRE has established that the suspect is impaired, the DRE must determine whether the impairment is caused by drugs or by a medical or mental health issue. This is commonly referred to as the medical rule out. If needed, the DRE will get the suspect medical assistance.

**Step three:** if it is established that the impairment is caused by drugs, the DRE then determines which category or categories of drugs is causing the impairment. The DRE uses the standardized 12 step process to do this.

When prosecuting a DRE case, the prosecutor should have the DRE officer testify to this three step process, emphasizing that DRE officers do not just assume the suspect is impaired by drugs.



# **The Standardized 12 Steps**



# DRUG EVALUATION CLASSIFICATION PROGRAM

'	Note instrument, serial number and result.
2.	INTERVIEW OF ARRESTING OFFICER Include reason for stop, driving observations, general observations paraphernalia, drug related street terms used by the subject. (Glove must be worn from this point.)
3.	PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION (FIRST PULSE) Health questions, observe face, breath and speech.
4.	EYE EXAMINATIONS HGN, VGN, LOC
5.	DIVIDED ATTENTION TESTS  Modified Romberg Balance  Walk and Turn  One Leg Stand  Finger to Nose
6.	VITAL SIGNS (SECOND PULSE)
7	DARK ROOM EXAMINATION & SIGNS OF INGESTION After pupil measurements, check nasal & oral cavities.
8	CHECK FOR MUSCLE RIGIDITY
9	CHECK FOR INJECTION SITES (THIRD PULSE)
10.	INTERROGATION, STATEMENTS & OTHER OBSERVATIONS
11.	OPINION OF EVALUATOR
12.	TOXICOLOGICAL EXAMINATION

This list/document can be used as a demonstrative aide during trial.

# **The DRE Face Sheet**

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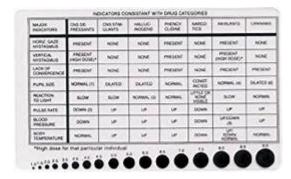
# The Tools of the Trade: DRE Equipment

The DRE equipment can make useful demonstrative aides during the trial. This is often a good way to break up a long trial.

The DRE uses the following equipment in conducting a drug influence evaluation:

• **Pupilometer:** a small, approximately 3 inch by 5 inch card (approximately 7 to 12 cm), that is usually plastic, that displays dark circles ranging in half-millimeter gradations from 1.0 millimeters to 9.0 millimeters.

The DRE matrix is often included on the card.



• **Sphygmomanometer:** a manual, aneroid blood pressure cuff consisting of a pumping bulb, a screw valve, an analog gauge, and a bladder.



• Stethoscope: a single or double diaphragm, double tubed



• Thermometer: oral, digital, with disposable covers



• Penlight: low power, medical style



**NOTE:** at times, the DRE officer will use a **UV light** instead of a penlight during the darkroom examination – especially if the suspect has very dark eyes. This is allowed by the DEC protocol.





• Magnifying light: generally five to ten magnification power, similar to those used by stamp collectors ad model builders



• **Stimulus:** to conduct eye movement examinations





• Evidence containers: for blood or urine





#### Protective gloves



In addition, DREs may utilize a camera to take photos of injection marks, nasal and oral cavities, the eyes and other evidence. DREs may also utilize various types of breath testing equipment, including preliminary breath testing instruments (PBTs).



